REMARKS

The present application was filed on December 21, 2001 with claims 1-15. Prior to the present amendment, claim 12 was canceled, and claims 1-11 and 13-15 were pending, including independent claims 1, 14 and 15.

In the Decision on Appeal, the Board affirmed the rejection of claims 1-11 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,219,352 (hereinafter "Bonomi") in view of Donald E. Knuth, The Art of Computer Programming (2d ed. 1973) (hereinafter "Knuth").

Applicants initially note that foreign counterparts of the present application have issued as Taiwan Patent No. 286426, United Kingdom Patent No. GB2383493, Korean Patent No. 10-0904156, and Japanese Patent No. 4331471.

Applicants have amended the claims without prejudice solely in order to conform to the claims which issued in the aforementioned Korean and Japanese counterparts. Claim 1 as amended now recites entering the list at an initial destination node which is the destination node from which the data was received. Also, in traversing the linked list, the multicast data is sent to each destination node other than the initial destination node, and the destination node from which the data was received is excluded from the multicast session. Support for these amendments may be found in previously-presented dependent claims 2-4 and 9, which have been canceled, as well as in the specification at, for example, page 5, lines 19-21, and page 7, lines 16-23.

The cited references fail to teach or suggest an arrangement in which a circularly linked list is entered at an initial destination node that is identified as the destination node from which the data was received, such that the destination node from which the data was received is excluded from the multicast session. Bonomi at column 14, lines 17-25, relied upon by the Examiner in rejecting previously-presented claims 4-6, describes the use of a port mask to indicate that a cell need not be transmitted on ports upon which the cell has already been transmitted. However, there is simply no teaching or suggestion of excluding the destination node from which the data was received. Knuth fails to remedy this fundamental deficiency of Bonomi with regard to the limitations of amended claim 1.
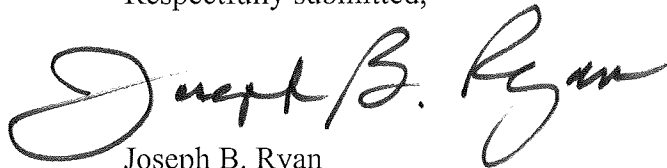
Independent claims 14 and 15 have been amended in a manner similar to that heretofore discussed with reference to claim 1 and are therefore believed to be similarly patentable.

Dependent claims 5-8, 10, 11 and 13 are believed allowable for at least the reasons identified above with regard to claim 1.

Applicants have also added new dependent claims 16-25, which include limitations similar to those recited in dependent claims 5-8, 10, 11 and 13. No new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing, the application, as amended herein, is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 2, 2011

Joseph B. Ryan
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 37,922
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP
90 Forest Avenue
Locust Valley, NY 11560
(516) 759-7517